

# Joint District of Kitimat & Haisla Nation Extreme Temperatures Emergency Response Plan

Version 1

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Due in part to Canada’s changing climate, the District of Kitimat (“the District”) and the Haisla Nation (“the Nation”) are exposed to increased risk of extreme temperatures—both heat and cold. These impacts are likely to be felt across both communities simultaneously due to their proximity and their deep interrelations. There is already a close working relationship during emergencies between the District and Nation and this plan intends to build on that strong foundation.

## 1.2 Purpose

This *Extreme Temperature Response Plan* (“the Plan”) is a hazard-specific plan that supports the District and Nation as regulated local authorities under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* in leading and/or participating in a coordinated response to extreme temperature events.

The Plan aims to provide guidance and tools during extreme temperature events to support:

- Coordination of emergency response activities between the District and Nation, and relevant internal and external partners.
- Provision of access to warming and cooling centres, including transportation.
- Provision of targeted support to vulnerable populations.
- Ongoing risk and safety communication with the public including the provision of actionable recommendations to stay safe.
- Recovery of eligible response costs from applicable sources.

## 1.3 Scope

The Plan guides the implementation of emergency response actions for extreme temperatures by the District and Nation. It is flexible, scalable, and may be used during a response of any severity in coordination with the District’s Emergency Management Plan and the Nation’s Emergency Response Plan.

### 1.3.1 Out of Scope

While this Plan references other (external) partners, it is not intended to guide the actions of organizations other than the District and Nation. Further, as a hazard-specific plan, it is not intended to be used for other hazards not specified in this Plan.

## 1.4 Related Documentation

The plan is designed to be aligned with the emergency management programs of the District and Nation. It should be used in conjunction with the following documentation:

- **District of Kitimat Emergency Management Plan** – Defines the District’s generic response arrangements.
- **Haisla Nation Emergency Response Plan** – Defines the Nation’s generic response arrangements in addition to outlining their wider Emergency Program.
- **District of Kitimat and Haisla Nation Extreme Temperature Project – Risk Mapping and Assessment** – Provides information on the impacts of extreme temperatures to both communities and establishes where those most vulnerable to these impacts are located.

## 1.5 Hazards of Concern

This Plan is concerned with two distinct hazards: extreme heat and extreme cold, and the negative impacts they may have on people, the environment, property, and the local economy.

### 1.5.1 Extreme Heat

Extreme heat occurs when daytime and nighttime temperatures rise and remain significantly above average for a prolonged period. During extreme heat events, temperatures can reach levels that pose serious health risks (dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, etc.), especially for vulnerable populations such as infants, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

## 1.5.2 Extreme Cold

Extreme cold occurs when temperatures fall significantly below average for a prolonged period. During extreme cold events, temperatures can reach levels that pose serious health risks (frostbite, hypothermia, etc.), especially for vulnerable populations such as unhoused persons and those without adequate heating.

## 2 Roles & Responsibilities

This section sets out the roles and responsibilities of relevant entities in extreme temperature events.

### 2.1 Internal Partners

The following tables outline the general roles and responsibilities of specific departments within the District and Nation during extreme temperature events.

#### 2.1.1 District of Kitimat

*Table 1: District of Kitimat Partners*

<b>Position/Department</b>	<b>Role/Responsibility</b>
<b>Emergency Program/Fire Department</b>	Leads the implementation of this Plan and Kitimat's overall approach to extreme temperature response.
<b>Leisure Services (i.e., Facilities)</b>	Leads the delivery of in-person extreme temperature relief services at community-owned response locations. Chairs the Vulnerable Populations Committee, which is a group of organizations tasked with implementing a number of community-based facilities and programs to support the most vulnerable individuals within the District.
<b>Emergency Support Services (ESS)</b>	Provides Emergency Support Services (ESS) if evacuations are required for hazards that could materialize alongside extreme temperatures, such as wildfires, power outages, etc.
<b>Engineering and Public Works</b>	Leads the maintenance and management of the District's infrastructure including water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, garbage, snow clearing, and public infrastructure.
<b>Economic Development and Communications</b>	Leads the delivery of communications for Kitimat, including public safety announcements during extreme temperature response.

<b>Position/Department</b>	<b>Role/Responsibility</b>
<b>Chief Administrative Officer</b>	Supports the Emergency Program/Fire Department leadership with the implementation of this Plan, including allocating District resources.
<b>Mayor and Council</b>	Supports District staff with the implementation of this Plan, including acting as a signatory for actions taken under the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> .

### 2.1.2 Haisla Nation

Table 2: Haisla Nation Partners

<b>Position/Department</b>	<b>Role/Responsibility</b>
<b>Emergency Program/Fire Department</b>	Leads the implementation of this Plan and the Haisla Nation's overall approach to extreme temperature response.
<b>Health</b>	Leads the delivery of in-person extreme temperature relief services at community-owned response locations.
<b>Public Works</b>	Leads the maintenance and management of the Nation's infrastructure including water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, garbage, snow clearing, and public infrastructure.
<b>Administration (including communications)</b>	Supports the Emergency Program/fire department leadership with the implementation of this Plan, including communications and public safety announcements.
<b>Executive Committee</b>	Supports Emergency Program, Health, and Administration leadership with the implementation of this Plan, including allocating Nation resources.
<b>Chief and Council</b>	Supports Nation staff with the implementation of this Plan, including acting as a signatory for actions taken under the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> .



## 2.2 External Partners

The District and Nation may coordinate with some or all the following agencies, depending on the activation phase.

Table 3: External Partners

Agency	Role
<b>BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) (including BC Ambulance)</b>	Provides BC ambulance services and other out-of-hospital and inter-hospital emergency medical support to patients experiencing health concerns due to extreme temperatures.
<b>BC Housing</b>	Provides guidance and funding for the implementation of the <i>Extreme Weather Response</i> (for cold weather) and the <i>Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke</i> programs.
<b>Better at Home</b>	Helps seniors with simple day-to-day tasks, allowing them to maintain their independence and stay connected with their community. It maintains contact information for vulnerable seniors; can undertake snow shoveling and check-ins.
<b>Coast Mountain School District (SD82)</b>	Facilitates the delivery of education and school care services to children in the mountain coast region, including during emergency situations such as extreme temperature events.
<b>Community Living BC (CLBC)</b>	The provincial crown corporation that funds supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities, as well as individuals who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and who also have significant difficulty doing tasks on their own.
<b>First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)</b>	Serves First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through emergency planning, training, response, and recovery. During extreme temperature events, FNESS can provide support to the Nation with the implementation of response actions.

Agency	Role
<b>First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)</b>	Plans, designs, manages, and funds the delivery of health programs and services to First Nations in British Columbia. During extreme temperature events, FNHA can provide guidance to Haisla Health when requested.
<b>Kitimat 50+ Society</b>	Provides a range of programs to senior citizens both in their designated facility but also at home. They maintain contact information for vulnerable seniors; can deliver groceries and undertake check ins.
<b>Kitimat Situation Table</b>	Assists front-line staff from the public safety, health, and social service sectors to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience a negative or traumatic event. It maintains awareness of these vulnerable individuals and can direct targeted support towards them.
<b>LNG Canada</b>	Leads extreme temperature response assistance for workers staying at company residential spaces (i.e., work camps), and coordinates with the District and Nation for the provision of mutual aid.
<b>Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)</b>	Provides assistance (primarily funding) to the District and Nation through all phases of emergency management (as specified in the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> ), including facilitating inter-agency and inter-government coordination and resource requests.
<b>Northern Health Authority (NHA)</b>	Operates emergency and non-emergency health care service delivery (i.e., in-hospital, clinic, etc.) to patients experiencing health concerns due to extreme temperatures.
<b>Rio Tinto (Aluminum and Hydropower)</b>	Leads extreme temperature response assistance for workers staying at company residential spaces (i.e., work camps), and

Agency	Role
	coordinates with the District and Nation for the provision of mutual aid.
<b>Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)</b>	Implement their mandate to keep Canadians and their interests safe and secure, including assisting Canadians in emergency situations/incidents including extreme temperature events through, for example, the provision of transport to emergency warming centres.

While the District and Nation are unlikely to coordinate directly with the following agencies, they provide essential forecasting and guidance for the implementation of response actions.

*Table 4: Additional External Partners*

Agency	Role
<b>BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)</b>	Provides guidance to individuals and organizations on the health effects and safety precautions for extreme temperature events.
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)</b>	Provides forecasting, including alerts and warnings, for extreme temperature events.
<b>WorkSafeBC (WSBC)</b>	Provides guidance to workers and employers for worker safety during extreme temperature events.

## 3 Response Approach

This section defines a framework to assist the District and/or the Nation to lead a coordinated response to extreme temperature events.

### 3.1 Response Priorities

The following response priorities align with the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS) priorities and are intended to guide the District and/or the Nation in responding to extreme temperature events.

The priorities are:

1. Protect the health and safety of responders and staff (including volunteers)
2. Protect the health and safety of the public
3. Protect critical infrastructure (electricity, water, transportation, etc.)
4. Support vulnerable populations (marginalized, high-need persons)
5. Increase community wellness (all persons)
6. Reduce economic, social, and property losses
7. Protect and limit damage to the environment

### 3.2 Phased Response

Recognizing that extreme temperature events are dynamic (and at times difficult to forecast/predict), this plan sets out a number of activation phases to respond to such incidents. **Each phase determines the level of coordination that should take place between key partners (i.e., between the District and Nation, at a minimum).**

The four phases of activation are:

1. **Seasonal Preparedness**
2. **Extreme Temperature Alert**
3. **Extreme Temperature Response**
4. **Deactivation**

Not all phases will be required for all extreme temperature events.

**It is the shared responsibility of the Emergency Program Leads of the District and Nation to collectively determine what phase of activation is currently in place.**

### 3.3 Coordination Meetings

Coordination Meetings form the key points of engagement within the various phases of response. They will ensure both the District and Nation are:

- Aware of the current situation, including:
  - Impacts being felt; and
  - Response actions being taken to address these impacts in communities.
- Coordinated in their actions.
- Able to promote efficiencies in their response actions through shared endeavors and partnerships.
- Communicating with both communities in a consistent manner.

**Coordination Meetings should be chaired or jointly chaired by the Emergency Program Leads of the District and Nation, or designated delegates.**

It is the responsibility of the District and Nation to provide for Coordination Meetings:

- Invitations to the meetings for those organizations described under each activation phase.
- A meeting Chair/Joint Chairs.
- Secretariat capabilities to scribe the meetings and share meeting actions.
- A venue or virtual platform to undertake the meetings.

## 3.4 Activation Phases

### 3.4.1 Phase 1: Seasonal Preparedness

<b>Phase Description</b>	The Seasonal Preparedness phase focuses on assessing and enhancing both communities' preparedness for and maintenance of a state of increased readiness for extreme temperature events. There is an emphasis on disseminating public safety education materials regarding extreme temperature impacts and ensuring the availability and functionality of extreme temperature response resources.
<b>Trigger Criteria</b>	Routinely held twice a year ahead of the winter and summer seasons, which are the periods when extreme temperature events are most likely to occur. <b>Note</b> - EMCR Northwest hosts a Seasonal Hazard Preparedness Meeting in spring and autumn, which the District and Nation are invited to attend. The District and Nation will decide if an additional meeting is required beyond this to discuss seasonal preparedness specific to both communities.
<b>Mandatory Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District of Kitimat</li> <li>• Haisla Nation</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMCR</li> <li>• FNHA</li> <li>• NHA</li> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• Coast Mountain School District</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination Meeting Cadence</b>	Minimum once per spring and autumn.
<b>EM Program Status</b>	Preparedness of response actions.

### 3.4.2 Phase 2: Extreme Temperature Alert

<b>Phase Description</b>	The Extreme Temperature Alert phase focuses on providing targeted assistance to vulnerable populations, and temperature relief options for the public in advance of an extreme temperature event. Public safety education is continued from Phase 1.
<b>Trigger Criteria</b>	<p>This phase should commence when there are credible predictions of extreme heat, cold, or potential power disruptions during abnormal weather conditions. These predictions can be flexible and consider several factors including weather data (including more formal alerts/warnings provided by ECCC), public health data, resource and capacity constraints, special events, community knowledge, and traditional knowledge.</p> <p><b>Note</b> - EMCR hosts Weekly Provincial Natural Hazard Information Calls, which the District and Nation are invited to attend. The District and Nation will decide if an additional meeting is required beyond this to discuss preparedness specific to both communities ahead of a potential extreme temperature event.</p>
<b>Mandatory Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District of Kitimat</li> <li>• Haisla Nation</li> <li>• EMCR</li> <li>• NHA</li> <li>• FNHA</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• BCEHS</li> <li>• Coast Mountain School District</li> <li>• FNESS</li> <li>• RCMP</li> <li>• Community Living BC</li> <li>• Rio Tinto</li> <li>• LNG Canada</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination Meeting Cadence</b>	Minimum one, when impacts are predicted.
<b>EM Program Status</b>	Potential for EOC and/or temperature-controlled facilities to be activated ready for possible State of Local Emergency (SOLE)/Band Council Resolution (BCR) declaration.

### 3.4.3 Phase 3: Extreme Temperature Response

<b>Phase Description</b>	The Extreme Temperature Response phase focuses on providing widespread support to the public (maintaining a focus on temperature relief), and increased support to vulnerable populations to reduce the risk of death or serious health crises and other serious impacts. Public safety education is continued from Phase 1.
<b>Trigger Criteria</b>	This phase should take place when there are impacts being experienced by the District and/or Nation as a result of an extreme temperature event.
<b>Mandatory Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District of Kitimat</li> <li>• Haisla Nation</li> <li>• EMCR</li> <li>• NHA</li> <li>• FNHA</li> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• BCEHS</li> <li>• FNESS</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCMP</li> <li>• Coast Mountain School District</li> <li>• Community Living BC</li> <li>• Rio Tinto</li> <li>• LNG Canada</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination Meeting Cadence</b>	During this phase there should be regular (daily) coordination to ensure response actions are implemented as effectively as possible.
<b>EM Program Status</b>	Potential for EOC activation. Temperature controlled facilities and response actions in use. Potential for SOLE/BCR declaration for extreme temperature emergency in the most severe scenarios.



### 3.4.4 Phase 4: Deactivation

<b>Phase Description</b>	The Deactivation phase focuses on transitions from emergency response to recovery, restoring a sense of “normal” risk and safety levels within the community, and de-mobilizing response locations and resources. It should also include the debriefing and sharing of lessons identified during the response.
<b>Trigger Criteria</b>	This phase is intended to be implemented after an extreme temperature event has concluded for at least three days.
<b>Mandatory Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District of Kitimat</li> <li>• Haisla Nation</li> <li>• Any other partner with operations/response actions that need to be transitioned or demobilized</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Coordinating Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any partner with interest in coordinating/debriefing the response.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination Meeting Cadence</b>	Once per extreme temperature event.
<b>EM Program Status</b>	EOC is deactivated. Response actions stood down. SOLE/BCR is rescinded. Response-specific communications and coordination are halted.

## 4 Response Actions

A detailed list of response actions is provided as a selection of *possible* actions that can be used by the District and Nation in *any* phase, rather than a mandate of specific actions for a specific phase.

### 4.1 Extreme Heat Actions

ID#	Key Response Action (Extreme Heat)
H1	Prepare and disseminate community heat safety messages and communications (with a focus on social media) to help identify heat risks and mitigation actions.
H2	Display heat health communication material in venues/town halls and distribute to strategic community groups or programs that interface with high-risk or vulnerable populations.
H3	Update/confirm the list of public air-conditioned buildings that could be used as cooling spaces.
H4	Engage internal and partner staff across the community to identify opportunities to promote heat health and enhance activities to respond to extreme heat.
H5	Consider adding temporary water fountains and temporary cooling spaces on publicly owned land/facilities.
H6	Conduct contingency inspection for air-conditioning and power supply in community-owned buildings.
H7	Consider temporarily revising local authority bylaws that would ease heat health impacts such as water restrictions or opening hours for parks and public spaces.
H8	Consider extending hours of operation of any pre-existing cool public spaces.
H9	Lead and/or support response coordination meetings, including developing agendas and action items.
H10	Encourage local services, clubs, and organizations to reschedule services or major events to cooler times of the day (particularly relevant for outdoor events or in venues without air conditioning).
H11	Open emergency weather centres (i.e., emergency cooling) for the general population during daytimes.

ID#	Key Response Action (Extreme Heat)
H12	Advertise the location of emergency weather centres (and other temperature-controlled buildings), including uploading the location and details for emergency weather centres to EMCR's Community Response Locations Portal (CRLP) so it displays on <a href="#">EmergencyMapBC</a> .
H13	Open population-specific emergency weather centres (i.e., emergency cooling) for vulnerable populations, and consider nighttime offerings.
H14	Establish and offer free transportation to emergency weather centres and existing wading pool facilities.
H15	Provide community cooling kits (handheld fans, reusable ice packs, insulated water bottle, electrolyte drinks, sun hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, cooling gels, shade devices (e.g., umbrella, tent) at community service locations.

## 4.2 Extreme Cold Actions

ID#	Key Response Action (Extreme Cold)
C1	Prepare and disseminate community cold safety messages and communications to highlight the risks of extreme cold and encourage mitigation actions. Educate the community to recognize symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite.
C2	Prepare and disseminate cold weather driving safety messages.
C3	Display extreme cold health and safety communication materials in community spaces and distribute to organizations or programs that serve high-risk or vulnerable populations.
C4	Update/confirm the list of public heated buildings and outdoor sheltered areas that could be used as warming spaces.
C5	Engage internal and partner staff across the community to identify opportunities to promote cold health and enhance activities to respond to extreme cold.
C6	Consider adding temporary heaters and warming stations on publicly owned land and facilities.
C7	Conduct contingency inspections for heating systems, reserve fuel, and power supply in community-owned buildings.

ID#	Key Response Action (Extreme Cold)
C8	Consider increasing reserve fuel levels for essential community facilities and services (if there is anticipation of an extended cold event leading to extended power outage).
C9	Consider extending opening hours for heated public spaces and encouraging community organizations to extend hours.
C10	Lead and/or support response coordination meetings, including developing agendas and action items.
C11	Encourage local services, clubs, and organizations to modify services or major events to ensure cold weather safety (such as moving events indoors, adding heaters, etc.)
C12	Open emergency weather centres (i.e., emergency warming locations) for the general population.
C13	Advertise the location of emergency weather centres (and other temperature-controlled buildings), including uploading the location and details for emergency weather centres to EMCR's Community Response Locations Portal (CRLP) so it displays on <a href="#">EmergencyMapBC</a> .
C14	Open population-specific emergency weather centres (i.e., emergency warming centres) for vulnerable populations, and consider nighttime offerings.
C15	Establish and offer free transportation to emergency weather centres.
C16	Offer community warming kits (i.e., blankets, hand warmers, socks, gloves, hats and scarves, lip balm, and moisturizer) at community service locations.
C17	Engage with volunteer and hobby organizations to provide capabilities such as snow mobiles to assist access to remote and/or cut off vulnerable community members.



# Appendix B: Community Response Locations List

Operator	Location Name	Address	Event Type (Hot/Cold/Both)	Comments

# Appendix C: Response Transportation Assets List

Operator	Asset Type	Base Location	Capacity	Comments

# Appendix D: Eligible Response Costs

The province, through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and BC Housing, will provide financial support to the District and Nation when incurring costs that arise from responding to extreme temperature events.

Before undertaking any response actions, the District and/or Nation should request a task number from EMCR. This can be used by the province to compile and monitor applicable costs and ensures that when an Expense Authorization Form (EAF) is submitted for approval, it can be matched against this task number.

The EAF provides the details and rationale of the expenditure and an estimate of the total expense for the response activity. Incremental costs will be considered for an extreme heat emergency, a forecasted extreme heat emergency or heat warning where actions are taken as outlined in the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (See Appendix G: Environment Canada and BC HARS Thresholds).

Eligibility and allowable expenses for BC Housing's Extreme Weather Response Program are detailed in the [Extreme Weather Response Program Framework](#).

The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC) has a [webpage](#) providing detailed information about the program, including links to a [General Info Sheet and FAQ](#) about the program.

There is a wide range of costs that can be covered by the province. The table below details when these are eligible or not for reimbursement.

Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
Bottled water	Materials	Bottled water made available at community cooling centre facilities.  Bottled water distributed during health and wellness checks where water is not readily available.	Bottled water purchased for distribution to private residences or locations that have water readily available.



Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
Staff overtime	Wages and overtime	<p>Incremental overtime for current staff to keep civic facilities open as cooling centres outside of normal operating hours.</p> <p>Incremental costs for the wages of temporary auxiliary staff hired under contract to specifically to support a designated cooling centre facility.</p>	<p>Regular salaries or straight time for current staff, benefits and taxes, and the incremental payroll expenses when working outside of the deployment shift length guidelines are ineligible. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The regular salary or hourly wage expense associated with response activities.</li> <li>• Benefits, taxes and overhead or loading costs for current staff.</li> <li>• Payroll expenditures not directly related to response activities (i.e., the backlog of regular work due to time spent working on the event).</li> </ul>

<b>Expense Item</b>	<b>Response Item</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Not Eligible</b>
Day and night facility for use as an emergency cooling centre	Facility rental	Rental of a non-local authority or First Nation facility for the provision of a cooling centre.  Incremental janitorial and utilities.  Incremental security costs.	Rental of community-owned facility or loss of use charges.
Nighttime extreme winter weather response shelter	Facility rental	Rental of a non-local authority or First Nation facility for the provision of an extreme winter weather response shelter.  Incremental janitorial and utilities.  Incremental security costs.	Rental of community-owned facility or loss of use charges.
Transportation to and from cooling centre	Emergency response measures	Commercial transportation of community members to and from cooling centres as needed in communities where no scheduled public or reasonable transportation exists.  Mileage reimbursement at Provincial government	Transportation costs where other reasonable alternatives exist.

Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
		rates for vehicles operated by a First Nation and local authorities for the transportation of community to and from cooling centres where no scheduled public or reasonable transportation exists.	
Emergency services	Fire services	Incremental costs to fire services responding to increased heat related medical calls, specifically, operational response to assist.	Routine operations supporting medical response.
Messaging	Emergency response measures	Print, radio, social media messages to local population amplifying ECCC and/or HEMBC messaging.	Messaging unrelated to heat wave response and/or unapproved by ECCC and/or HEMBC.
Volunteer support for wellness checks	Materials Wages or overtime	Incremental overtime for local and First Nations government staff to provide “just-in-time” training for volunteers on wellness checks.  Incremental costs for local and First Nations governments to provide additional materials, additional	Regular salaries or straight time for current staff, benefits and taxes, and the incremental payroll expenses.

Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
		transport costs, or tools to do wellness checks (e.g., thermometers, bottles of water).	
Partner organization support to operate cooling centres	Wages or overtime for organizations contracted by First Nations and local governments.	Incremental overtime for organizational staff keeping facilities open as cooling centres outside of normal operating hours.  Incremental janitorial and utilities.	Regular salaries or straight time for current staff, benefits and taxes, and the incremental payroll expenses.
First Nations supports	Community navigator	Incremental costs for Community Navigator connecting public with supports provided by FNHA, FNESS and ISC.	
Cooling device rental for provincial government partner organizations		Cost of cooling device rentals.  Incremental utility expenses.	Cooling device costs submitted in the absence of a previously approved EAF.
Basic snacks and bottled water at day and night facilities	Materials	Snacks to be available for the public at community cooling centre facilities.	Food purchased for distribution to private residences.  Meals provided at day and night facilities.

# Appendix E: Weather Exposure Standards for Outdoor Workers

## Extreme Heat Exposure

### Regulatory excerpt

Section 7.28(1) of the *OHS Regulation ("Regulation")* states:

A worker must not be exposed to levels that exceed those listed in the screening criteria for heat stress exposure in the heat stress and strain section of the ACGIH Standard.

### Exposure Limits

Table 1 lists values from the 2007 edition of the *American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)* publication *Threshold Limit Values (TLV®) and Biological Exposure Indices*.

**Table 1: Screening criteria for heat stress exposure (WBGT values in °C)**

Work/Recovery cycle	TLV®				Action Limit			
	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very heavy	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very heavy
75 - 100% work	31	28	-	-	28	25	-	-
50 - 75% work	31	29	27.5	-	28.5	26	24	-
25 - 50% work	32	30	29	28	29.5	27	25.5	24.5
0 - 25% work	32.5	31.5	30.5	30	30	29	28	27

## Extreme Cold Exposure

### Regulatory Excerpt

Section 7.34(a) of the *OHS Regulation ("Regulation")* states:

If a worker is or may be exposed to conditions specified in section 7.33, the employer must:

(a) conduct a cold stress assessment to determine the potential for hazardous exposure of workers, using measures and methods that are acceptable to the Board, and ...

See [WorkSafeBC](#) for more information.

# Appendix F: Extreme Temperature Public Safety Communication Resources

## Extreme Heat Safety

- [Beat the Heat](#) (8-1-1 HealthLinkBC)
- [Heat-Related Illness in Infants and Young Children](#) (8-1-1 HealthLinkBC)
- [Heat-related Illness](#) ((8-1-1 HealthLinkBC)
- [Be Prepared for Extreme Heat](#) (PreparedBC)
- [Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide](#) (PreparedBC)
- [Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#) (Ready.gov)
- [Get Prepared for Heat Waves](#) (Gov of Canada)

## Extreme Cold Safety

- Wind Chill and Cold Weather [Safety](#) (Gov of Canada)
- Seven Steps to Cold Weather [Safety](#) (Gov of Canada)
- [Extreme Cold Safety Tips](#) (National Weather Service)
- [Winter Weather Safety](#) (Ready.gov)
- [Severe Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide](#) (PreparedBC)
- [Get Ready for Winter](#) (Fraser Health)
- [Winter Sport and Rec Safety](#) (Northern Health)
- [Winter Safety](#) (Adventure Smart)

# Appendix G: Environment Canada and BC HARS Thresholds

## Extreme Heat

Extreme heat occurs when temperatures rise significantly above average for a prolonged period. During extreme heat events, temperatures can reach levels that pose serious health risks (dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, etc.), especially for vulnerable populations such as infants, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) issues a *Heat Warning* for the Central and Northern Coast of BC (including the District of Kitimat and Kitimaat Village) when two or more consecutive days of daytime maximum temperatures are expected to reach 28°C or warmer and nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to fall to 13°C or warmer.

## BC Heat Alert and Response System (HARS)

Following the 2021 heat dome event, the province of British Columbia established the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures Coordinating Committee (BC Heat Committee) to support planning and response efforts related to the public health impacts of significant heat events in BC.

In June 2022, the BC Heat Committee introduced a two-tiered heat alert and response system (BC HARS), which defined two specific types of extreme heat events:

1. Heat Warning (same definition as ECCC)
2. Extreme Heat Emergency (heat warning criteria have been met and forecast indicates that daily highs will substantively increase day over-day for three or more consecutive days)

While this Plan takes a customized approach to the definition and activation triggers of each response phase (see [Activation Phases](#)), the BC HARS tiers will be considered and adopted where applicable.



**Extreme Cold**

Extreme cold occurs when temperatures fall significantly below average for a prolonged period. During extreme cold events, temperatures can reach levels that pose serious health risks (frostbite, hypothermia, etc.), especially for vulnerable populations such as unhoused persons and those without adequate heating.

ECCC issues a *Cold Warning* for coastal BC when the temperature or wind chill is expected to reach minus 35°C for at least two hours.